



BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire  
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Joint  
A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and of the  
Public Health Inspector  
for the year 1968  
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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL  
(As at 31st December 1968)

J.H. WALLER (Chairman of the Council)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Winslow
D.H. EVANS (Vice-Chairman of the Council)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bromyard
J.T. ARNETT	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Stoke Lacy
H.S. BAYLISS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bromyard
Major M.A. BELLVILLE (Chairman of the Health and Development Committee)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Tedstone Delamere
Mrs. J.M. BIBBINGS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cradley
G.J. BOWLER (Vice-Chairman of the Health and Development Committee)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bishops Frome
R.G. BRADLEY	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cradley
V.L. BRIGDEN	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cradley
R.G. CARTER	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Thornbury with Hampton Charles
D.V. COOKE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cradley
J.F. COTTON	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Felton
V.O. COX	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Norton
L.W. DAY	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bromyard
F.C.L. ESSENHIGH	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Brockhampton
O.H.M. HERFORD	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bredenbury
H.C.C. HODGES	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Avenbury
A.L. JAMES	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Whitbourne
S. MEREDITH	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ocle Pychard
Commander E.A. NICHOLSON	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Edvin Loach, Saltmarshe and Tedstone Wafre
W.D. PORTER	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Acton Beauchamp
Mrs. E.C. POWELL	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bromyard
J.L. POWELL	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Edwyn Ralph
T.I. POYNER	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ullingswick
T.L. RICHARDS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Stanford Bishop
Mrs. A.M. ROBINSON	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Linton
Miss M. SHEPHERD	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Whitbourne
O.J.E. SKYRM	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Upper Sapey
D.J. THOMAS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Pencombe with Grendon Warren
A.H. VICK	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bromyard
Mrs. E.M. WALDRON	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Much Cowarne
Rev. W.G. WALTON	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bishops Frome
J.R. WILKINS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bromyard

Clerk of the Council .. A.C. BISHOP



To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Rural District  
Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1968, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector.

In the Statistical Report there is not much to note except for the high figure for deaths from lung cancer.

This has risen over the years for the combined areas as follows:

1963	3
1964	3
1965	1
1966	6 (1 in U.D.C. area)
1967	1
1968	7

I note that in Mr. Worsdall's report he has not been able to carry out the routine inspection of food shops during the year. This has given rise to problems but the staffing committee have this matter in hand.

I would also like to draw the Council's attention to the matter of caravan sites. There is, in fact, in the Council's area, a small but unsatisfactory gipsy site. I think consideration should be given to the provision of a proper site for these people.

Otherwise the year has been a healthy one, with progress in many directions, particularly housing of the elderly.

I should like to thank Mr. Worsdall for his help and cooperation during the year.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

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G.D.K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westfield Walk,

LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

N.E. WORSALL,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector,

Council Offices,

BROMYARD.

(Telephone: Bromyard 2341)

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health: C.A. PREECE

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	61,327
Estimated mid-year home population	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,610
Average number of persons per acre	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.14
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,790
Average number of inhabited houses per acre	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.04
Average number of persons per house	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.1
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£201,039
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£761

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	48	54	102
Illegitimate	3	1	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	51	55	106
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor:	1.14	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
**Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	12.3	17.1	13.6	14.6	14.1	
" " (Adjusted)	14.0	20.1	14.0	16.7	15.0	
England and Wales	16.9	17.2	17.7	18.0	18.4	

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	3.8
England and Wales	..	figure not available

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
**Bromyard R.D.	18.5	13.4	33.1	7.9	16.3
England and Wales	14.0	14.8	15.4	15.7	16.3

\*\* The figures for the old Urban District are included in all of these rates.

(Note: it is not possible to include the old U.D. figures in the adjusted birth rates or adjusted death rates for the years 1964-7)

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	10.5

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	12.3

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	18.5
England and Wales	..	25.0

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-



Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
**Bromyard R.D.	(Total	9.4	6.8	34.2	16.0	33.1
	(Legitimate	9.8	7.5	28.0	18.0	34.8
	(Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	100.0	Nil	Nil
England & Wales	(Total	18.0	18.3	19.0	19.0	19.9
	(Legitimate	*	*	*	*	19.4
	(Illegitimate	*	*	*	*	26.3

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	*

#### DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:	56	67	123

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 0.67	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
**Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	14.3	9.9	15.6	10.5	12.3
" " (Adjusted)	9.6	8.7	14.0	16.7	15.0
England and Wales	11.9	11.2	11.7	11.5	11.3

#### Cancer

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:	13	12	25

Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
**Bromyard R.D.	2.90	1.75	3.38	1.17	1.76
England and Wales	*	2.27	2.25	2.23	2.20

#### Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:	29	37	66

\*Figures not available.

\*\*The figures for the old Urban District are included in all of these rates.

(Note: it is not possible to include the old U.D. figures in the adjusted birth rates or adjusted death rates for the years 1964-7)



Cardio-Vascular Disease (Continued)

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
**Bromyard R.D.	7.66	5.59	7.34	7.36	6.33
England and Wales	*	5.77	5.97	5.95	5.73

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	10	8	18

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
**Bromyard R.D.	2.10	0.70	1.63	1.40	1.52
England and Wales	*	1.37	1.60	1.41	1.37

\*\*The figures for the old U.D. are included in all of these rates.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	-	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	5	6	11
Diabetes mellitus	-	1	1
Other endocrine etc., diseases	1	-	1
Mental disorders	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system etc.	1	5	6
Hypertensive disease	3	-	3
Ischaemic heart disease	11	15	26
Other forms of heart disease	2	2	4
Cerebrovascular disease	7	13	20
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	2	7
Pneumonia	4	7	11
Bronchitis and emphysema	6	1	7
Other diseases of digestive system	1	1	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	-	1
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	-	1	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	1	1
Congenital anomalies	-	1	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	1	2
Accidents other than motor vehicle	-	1	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	2	2
	56	67	123

\*Figure not available.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASEBromyard Rural District

Disease	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Whooping Cough	-	6	13	1	7
Measles	29	90	34	57	205
Scarlet Fever	1	2	1	-	1
*Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	-
Acute Encephalitis:					
Post-Infectious	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	41	2	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	1	2	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	-	2	1	-	1
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	-	1	1

North Herefordshire

Whooping Cough	18	47	37	5	70
Measles	526	314	271	525	609
Scarlet Fever	11	11	29	12	8
*Erysipelas	-	2	4	3	2
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective	-	-	2	-	-
Post-Infectious	1	-	-	-	-
*Acute Pneumonia	3	5	9	3	8
+Infective Jaundice	8	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	17	285	92	6	3
Food Poisoning	6	10	9	8	14
*Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	1	3	4	8	10
Non-Pulmonary	3	2	3	3	3

\*Ceased to be notifiable from 1.10.68.

+Notifiable from 15.6.68.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HERFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1968.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	1	3	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	4	2	1	18
Measles	-	3	146	133	39	112	66	24	-	-	1	2	526
Scarlet Fever	1	-	2	2	2	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	11
Acute Encephalitis:													
Post-Infectious	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
* Acute Pneumonia	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
+ Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3	1	1	8
Dysentery	-	-	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	17
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	6
* Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3

\* Ceased to be notifiable from 1.10.68.

+ Notifiable from 15.6.68.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1967.	18	21	4	6
New cases notified	-	-	1	-
Recovered	-	1	-	-
Number on Register at 31st December, 1968.	18	20	5	6

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1964	3	54	2	-
1965	1	56	-	1
1966	1	54	-	2
1967	2	49	1	5
1968	1	49	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Amendment) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORTPRIVATE HOUSING AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT

There is still little evidence of pressure to build private dwellings within the area. Twentyfive new dwellings were completed with 82 in course of construction at the end of the year, including 55 on one site in Bromyard Parish. This scheme was much encouraged by the former Urban District Council taking the initiative in providing sewerage and stimulating the provision of a suitable access road. The former Rural District Council undertook the provision of sewerage on a much larger scale at Cradley but the effects have not been so definite as at Bromyard.

Indications are that the Planning Authorities are now willing to consider approving building extensions to Bromyard, probably on the Tenbury side. Approvals cannot be on an individual basis initially because the area will require a comprehensive layout to establish road access patterns. Both storm and foul sewerage will need to be provided by the Council. Obviously growth of any community demands fairly heavy public investment.

Perhaps private house building will quicken in 1969 onwards as the Council's industrial development in Bromyard gains momentum. The nine months of the new Council up to 31st December witnessed encouraging activity in persuading business people to take plots at the Three Mills Trading Estate and the former Railway station site. One factory was in course of erection by the end of the year.

Plans and other details for providing a new access road to Three Mills to avoid the narrow Church Lane; for removal of platforms etc.; and for the provision of mains services, were formulated in 1968.

Side effects of such an undertaking can be surprising and the Development Sub-committee has been conscious of the broader picture, giving attention to the appearance of the new buildings, the provision of additional public footpaths and even helping the establishment of a narrow gauge railway by a local enthusiast.

PUBLICALLY OWNED HOUSING

At December 1968, the Council owned 466 dwellings and 106 garages. In these figures are included 8 bungalows completed in April, at Bishops Frome. A further 45 dwellings at Cradley and three at Acton Beauchamp should be finished by the Spring of 1969.

Priority was given to young couples in the selection of tenants for the new bungalows at Bishops Frome; a repeat of the policy adopted at Stoke Lacy and specifically intended to keep younger people in the villages.



PUBLICALLY OWNED HOUSING (Continued)

Efforts were continued to secure land for housing at Ullingswick, Munderfield and Bishops Frome. Unfortunately sites at Ullingswick and Bishops Frome got bogged down "at District Valuer level" and local objections to drainage effluent were raised at Munderfield. Substantial areas are held by the Council at Whitbourne and Bromyard and the former Munderfield School is also owned.

The maintenance staff was increased by one carpenter and one gardener/labourer, the former to meet increased demands for repairs from Bromyard Parish and the latter to undertake mowing lawns at existing estates, to deal with Bromyard closed Churchyard (much of which had recently been cleared) and to handle most of the mowing at Kirkham Garden estate. This side of the Council's responsibility will be further increased by new estates at Cradley, Bishops Frome and Acton Beauchamp.

Repairs to Council houses are more expensive, mainly because of inferior materials, especially joinery, in post-war houses.

Improvements to four pre-war houses at Much Cowarne began in 1968, with grant assistance, and when completed, all purpose-built Council houses in the district will have modern conveniences. A few sites await proper mains water supplies.

The Housing accounts were also badly hit by expenditure incurred in replacing defective copper water services at three sites, and by plumbing work necessary to adapt house water systems to mains supply.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Activity was unabated, and in particular there was a revival of interest in discretionary grants. Statistics for 1968 were:

(a) Discretionary Grants

Number of houses in respect of which applications were made:	21
Outstanding at December, 1967:	2
Number of houses in respect of which grants were offered:	21
Number of houses in respect of which applications were outstanding at December, 1968:	2
Total grant offered in respect of above works:	£8,208.15. 0.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (Continued)(b) Standard Grants

Number of houses in respect of which applications were made:	24
Number of applications approved:	27
Value of grants paid:	£8,915.16. 8.

UNFIT HOUSES, SLUM CLEARANCE

Formal proceedings during 1968 were limited to dealing with complaints and since these are few indeed, perhaps it may be concluded that the Council's slum clearance problem is not of the same magnitude as in more urbanised authorities.

WATER SUPPLY

Details of connections to properties at the 31st December, 1968 are:

Acton Beauchamp	21	Ocle Pychard	52
Avenbury	6	Pencombe	30
Bredenbury	9	Saltmarshe	1
Brockhampton	3	Stanford Bishop	22
Little Cowarne	15	Stoke Lacy	31
Much Cowarne	37	Tedstone Delamere	12
Cradley	236	Tedstone Wafre	16
Edvin Loach	1	Ullingswick	4
Edwyn Ralph	25	Upper Sapey	36
Evesbatch	8	Wacton	6
Bishops Frome	117	Whitbourne	103
Grendon Bishop	30	Winslow	55
Linton	68	Wolferlow	7
Moreton Jeffries	1	Bromyard	741
Norton	90		
			<hr/> 1783 <hr/>

There are now no standpipes in the rural area.

Complaints of quality were restricted to one area of Bromyard parish. The Water Board reports certain mains are shedding corrosion accumulated over many years and this manifests itself at certain higher points, whenever the mains are shut off for maintenance work on valves etc.

Mains extensions to Bredenbury, Thornbury and Collington were completed in 1968, and a contract accepted by the Water Board for Munderfield hamlet. This leaves one major section - Stoke Lacy to Ullingswick - to receive mains water.



SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Modern installations at Bromyard, Bishops Frome and Cradley are the only works of any size in the area. There are 21 smaller works serving housing estates of densities varying from two to about 60 dwellings, and these need constant attention. Some are equipped with mechanical pumping facilities.

Of the larger works only that at Bishops Frome proved difficult to bring to the required chemical standard of effluent.

At Bromyard disposal of sludge presents a continuing problem.

A proposal to construct a sewage disposal works at Pencombe was rejected for the present, by the Minister, mainly because he felt the site too near the Rectory. Bredenbury scheme was kept in a state of suspended animation and, until more positive development proposals are forthcoming, is likely to remain so.

After pressure by the hospital authorities, the Minister gave his consent to the Linton scheme, which though of most benefit to Bromyard Hospital, will also replace the unsatisfactory septic tank at the Linton Council estate.

Whitbourne parish scheme remained with the Minister, awaiting its local enquiry.

In general, the Government made it abundantly clear that so long as the current financial difficulties persisted, rural sewerage schemes would need to be extremely urgent from the public health standpoint, to stand any chance of progress.

Having considered the implications of industrial development in Bromyard, and the need to provide sewerage facilities at Quarry Meadow which the Council own for housing development, Consulting Engineers were instructed to report and advise on both foul and storm systems serving the area to the North-East of Old Road. Expenditure on this sort of project is not a public health matter as in the remaining rural area, but an investment in the future and without which there can be no more new dwellings, no car park, and no industry.

The Council's decision in 1969, when they receive the Consultants' report, will settle the question whether Bromyard is to grow or to hibernate. Surprising how fascinating a drain can be !

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection is weekly in Bromyard parish and certain parts of Winslow. It is kerbside, i.e., each householder brings out his dustbin on appointed days and takes it back after the lorry has passed. Too bad if he forgets or dares to be ill on the appointed day. Lines of dustbins, empty or full, along the kerbs are not a pleasant sight, and indeed this kind of system was condemned by the Royal Commission on refuse collection.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL (Continued)

The paper sack system in the rest of the district continues to flourish and despite being a fortnightly collection, it is generally popular. When required, additional sacks are left. The system is favoured by the workmen, is hygienic for the householder and, he or she is relieved of carrying the bin to the roadside.

Disposal is by tip at Edwyn Ralph or Warren Wood on the Downs above Bromyard. Efforts are being made to locate other sites to suit this purpose, a need for tips is ever present since it is a fair assumption that the volume of refuse doubles every ten years.

Scavenging of lay-bys is undertaken by arrangement with the Herefordshire County Council, and a system of road sweeping and road scavenging in Bromyard parish is being developed from the old Urban routine. Collection of refuse on the Downs increased in scope in 1968 with the introduction of paper sacks at strategic points. The number of such points will be doubled in 1969.

Trade refuse is collected in Bromyard parish by arrangement and at very nominal charges.

FOOD INSPECTION

Routine meat inspection at the one private slaughterhouse is undertaken by the local veterinary inspector under a financial arrangement made soon after amalgamation. Details of inspections and condemnations are given below:

(a) Details of animals killed and inspected

Bovines	357
Calves	17
Pigs	460
Sheep and lambs	1463

(b) Details of meat and offal condemned

Meat - Pork	1 Pig - peritonitis, weighing 100 lb.
Offal - Beef	498½ lb.
Mutton	18 lb.

Regular inspection of food shops is not carried out; special inspections are made where some query or complaint has arisen. This aspect of the department's work, together with routine visits under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, is weak indeed.

FOOD INSPECTION (Continued)

Statistical details are:

(a) Food and Drugs Act

Number of food shops:	74
(i) complying with Regulation 16:	51
(ii) to which Regulation 19 applies:	12
(iii) complying with Regulation 19:	12
Number of Public Houses:	35

(b) Slaughter of Animals Act

Number of licensed slaughterhouses in the district:	1
Number of licensed slaughtermen:	11

(c) Poultry Inspection: NilCARAVAN SITES

The district is perhaps rather fortunate in that it has no caravan problem beyond the odd outbreak of gypsies on the Common or associated with certain farms, particularly during the fruit and hop-picking seasons. Very much on the credit side are two large holiday caravan sites, one in Bromyard parish and one on the site of the old Saltmarshes Castle. Both of these afford excellent accommodation under intelligent management, and are in every way a credit to their owners and occupiers and are an asset to the district in general. Their effect on the local authority economy is something which cannot be overlooked.

SWIMMING POOL

There are no publically owned pools, but there are small installations at two private schools.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Council own and manage one building for this purpose in the centre of Bromyard, but there are proposals to provide a second as and when the proposed car-park is developed at the Tenbury end of the town.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council tackle the matter of the destruction of rats and mice in a most positive way, and are associated with the rural district councils of Hereford, Ledbury, and Ross and Whitchurch, in a joint scheme of which the key officer is Mr. Tristram.

RODENT CONTROL (Continued)

Mr. Tristram has two rodent officers to assist him and they operate mainly on contract work on farms and business premises, and also on local authority refuse tips, sewers and sewage disposal works. Private property is attended to on request of the tenant usually, but in some cases on complaint from neighbours.

The joint scheme has reached a rather difficult stage in as much as there are now sufficient contracts to keep the two operatives fully employed while it would appear that more contracts can be secured, given the right publicity. Before this is attempted a third operator would need to be engaged. This raises financial queries and it is obvious that for a short period at least, part of the third man's salary and travelling expenditure would have to be spread amongst the local authorities as a loss, certainly until such time as more contracts have been secured.

I am grateful to Mr. Tristram for the following report:

There has been a tendency towards infestations in the year ended December 1968, and I believe that the Ministry of Agriculture have asked farmers to step up their battle against the common rat.

The area of warfarin resistance has increased slightly since the previous year, possibly due to the rodent operative concerned not being able to visit farms during the recent extensive foot and mouth epidemic, but I am glad to say that the warfarin resistant rat has not so far reached our area.

The Press and news broadcasts have made appeals to householders to notify the local authorities of infestations and it may be that this has caused us to receive more complaints. I gather that in some counties in eastern England, authorities have been obliged to carry out big block treatments of whole areas.

A refresher course was held at Worcester during the year by the Ministry and I think by attending these courses one can keep a picture of how things are going on in other areas, and also keep up to date with any new poisons.

FACTORIES ACTInspections

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec.1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	16	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) on which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	11	-	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found: Nil

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134): 1





